

THE CLAIMS.

1. An exterior sheathing element having a first edge portion forming a channel on what, in situ, will be an innerface of the element, and having a second and opposite edge portion forming a channel on what, in situ, will be an outerface of the element, with a part of that
 5 second edge portion, being a part set-back from at least one side of the tile, having a mounting tab projecting clear of the second edge portion in a substantially co-planar relationship to a main body of the element, the structure enabling a mounting tab free part at one side of a first sheathing element to be overlapped with a side of a second element with their corresponding folded edge portions engaged, and a first folded edge portion of a third sheathing element to be
 10 engaged over and about the second folded edge portion of at least one of the first and second sheathing elements.
2. An exterior sheathing element as claimed in ^{claim 1} ~~the preceding claim~~ wherein the mounting tab free part is provided at the side of the tile intended, in use, to be on the upperside when overlapped with a side of a second element
- 15 3. A sheet metal exterior sheathing element configured to replicate at least one wooden shingle and comprising a substantially planar body save for strengthening indentations including, adjacent one side, a series of longitudinally extending ribs, the ribs being on that side of a tile intended, in use, to be disposed on the underside when overlapped with a side of a
 20 second element to also act as weathering indentations, and having a first edge portion turned back on itself to form a channel on what, in situ, will be an innerface of the element, and having
 25 a second and opposite edge portion also turned back on itself to form a channel on what, in situ, will be an outerface of the element with a part of that second edge portion set-back from at least one side thereof having a return fold to extend back on itself and project clear of and substantially co-planar to the body of the element to form a mounting tab, the structure
enabling a first and second sheathing element disposed with their sides overlapping and their corresponding folded edge portions engaged, the first folded edge of the lowermost tile being located within the channel of the first folded edge of the uppermost element and the mounting
tab free part of the second folded edge of the uppermost element being located within the

channel of the lowermost element and a first folded edge portion of a third tile to be engaged over and about the second folded edge portion of at least one of the first and second tiles.

4. An exterior sheathing element having a substantially planar body and having a first edge portion folded over to overlay, in adjacent spaced relationship to thereby form a first transversely disposed channel, what in situ will be a lower section of an innerface of the element, and having a second edge portion opposite the first edge portion, folded over to overlay, in adjacent spaced relationship to thereby form a second transversely disposed channel, what in situ will be an upper section of an outerface of the element, at least a part of the second edge portion being further folded back on and over itself to form a mounting tab projecting clear of the second edge portion in a substantially co-planar relationship to the plane of the body of the element, the structure of the element enabling a first side portion of a first sheathing element to be overlapped with a second and opposite side portion of a second element without engagement except for the overlapping sections of the first and second folded edge portions, engagement of those sections being by the side section of the first folded edge portion of the underlay element being located in the groove formed by the corresponding section of the overlay element, and the side section of the second folded section of the overlay element being located in the groove formed by the corresponding section of the underlay element, and a first folded edge portion of a third sheathing element to be engaged over the overlapping sections and adjacent sections of the second folded edge portions of the first and second sheathing elements with those second folded edge sections being located in the groove formed by the first folded edge portion of the third element.

5. An exterior sheathing element as claimed in claim 4 wherein the fold back of the second edge portion extends for a part only of the length thereof as to create a mounting tab free part at least at that side section of an element which, in situ, is intended to overlay a side section of an adjacent element.

6. An exterior sheathing element as claimed in claim 5 manufactured from sheet metal to replicate at least one wooden shingle and having on that side section opposite the mounting tab free side section a series of longitudinally extending weathering ribs.

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a 7. An exterior sheathing element as claimed in any ~~one of the claims 1 to 6 inclusive~~ ^{claim 6} wherein the mounting tab includes a laterally extending support batten forming channel therein.

a 8. A method ^{claim 6} of exterior sheathing a structure with a plurality of sheathing elements as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1-7 inclusive~~, comprising substantially of repeating the steps of
5 positioning a first sheathing element on a sheathing element support of the structure, positioning a second sheathing element with a side section thereof in an overlapping relationship with a section side of the first element and in so doing ensuring their corresponding folded edge portions engage one within the other by the side section of the first folded edge portion of the underlay element being located in the groove formed by the corresponding
10 section of the overlay element, and the side section of the second folded section of the overlay element being located in the groove formed by the corresponding section of the underlay element, and positioning a first folded edge portion of a third sheathing element in engagement over the overlapping sections and adjacent sections of the second folded edge portions of the first and second sheathing elements with those second folded edge sections being located in the
15 groove formed by the first folded edge portion of the third element, and throughout utilising mounting means with the mounting tabs to affix the sheathing elements to the support.

9 A method of exterior sheathing a structure with a plurality of sheathing elements as claimed in claim 8 ~~when dependant on claims 4-6 inclusive~~ wherein the side section of the second element is positioned under the tab free side section of the first element.

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